

Pauley, Melissa

From: Silawsky, Donald [Donald.Silawsky@hq.doe.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 24, 2008 5:05 AM
To: Pauley, Melissa; Fadely, Karen
Subject: FW: Scoping for the SPR SEIS
Attachments: comments.doc

-----Original Message-----

From: Cathy Shropshire [<mailto:cshropshire@mswf.org>]
Sent: Mon 4/21/2008 10:37 AM
To: Silawsky, Donald
Subject: Scoping for the SPR SEIS

Mr. Silawsky:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Richton Salt Dome proposal. I am including comments in the body of the email as well as an attachment in Word.

Cathy Shropshire

Mississippi Wildlife Federation
855 S. Pear Orchard Road
Suite 500
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-206-5703

Donald Silawsky
Office of Petroleum Reserves (FE-47)
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-0301

Subject: Scoping for the SPR SEIS

Dear Mr. Silawsky:

I am sending these comments on behalf of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation, in regard to the Richton, Mississippi Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Our concerns center on the withdrawal of waters from the Pascagoula River and discharges into the Gulf of Mexico.

1. Removal of 50,000,000 gallons of water a day from the Pascagoula River could have harmful effects to wildlife and the citizens who use the water. What biological effects are anticipated from this withdrawal? What impacts will this have on the Gulf Sturgeon, yellow blotched map turtle and pearl darter.
2. What steps will be taken if droughts continue in the Southeast and in-stream flows are reduced?
3. Who makes the decision to reduce withdrawal of water in an emergency, local or federal employees? How long does it take address an emergency?
4. What is the impact to the tributaries and associated organisms feeding

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the Pascagoula River?

5. Can the project be completed with a withdrawal less than 50,000,000 gallons/per day?
6. What are the priority uses for the Pascagoula and how are they ranked?
7. If water must be taken from Okatibbee or other reservoir, how will that withdrawal affect that site and its tributaries? How will it affect any mitigation associated with the reservoir?
8. What is the biological impact of saltwater intrusion due to the withdrawal of waters from the Pascagoula?
9. What are the impacts to recreational activities in the Pascagoula from withdrawal of 50,000,000 gallons, per day.
10. Is there a buffer around the intake area, and if so how large is that area in the river?
11. What other sites have been considered for water withdrawal, and why were they rejected?
12. Specifically, how would discharge affect the Gulf of Mexico. Videos at the hearing showed large transient fish in the area of the pipe, but how are smaller more sedentary organisms affected?
13. Salt brine spills have been predicted to occur. How will these be addressed? What mitigation steps will be taken for losses to species or habitats?
14. Oil spills have been predicted to occur. How will these be addressed? What mitigation steps will be taken for losses to species or habitats?
15. Are there alternative uses for the salt?
16. What is the environmental impact of increased tanker traffic on the Coast?

Sincerely.

Cathy Shropshire, PhD
MWF Executive Director

CATHY SHROPSHIRE
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